Although Morse Code is favored by many operators and is a fine service and hobby, there are likely as many who will not or do not use it.

Many operators only learn it in order to pass the test for the Amateur General license, and thereafter, use SSB or other voice/video/digital modes exclusively.

The Code issue is an abnormally emotional one for a small but vocal percentage of operators, who often libel people who refuse to, or cannot learn the morse code, as "dull" or "lazy" (Exhibit A). Such output often arises from a fearful or overbearing personality and should be dismissed as irrelevant.

Fortunately, most Code experts are not so irrational.

If we put aside noisy emotion and think from the point of logic, we see that:

1. Many "conscientious objectors" to the code don't go for General because are merely not interested in being forced to learn something they never intend to use.

2. Many non-objecting people have tried many ways in earnest to learn it, and just don't get it, even though they are quite competent in other ways, to the point of outweighing the absence of Code.

To address the resources:

What do you do with a person intelligent enough to easily pass the General written test but whom never has been able to learn the code or any other second language?

The FCC has limited these people to the Technician license, along with others who know only enough to pass the all-too-easy Tech exam. It's a waste of resources to keep these people from serving in the HF bands. There was a worldwide agreement to enforce the Morse Code requirement, but that is now past history.

If the code requirement were removed for the General class of license, it would enrich the Service by allowing many more qualified and experienced operators to participate.

Let me state that I do not dislike the Code or those who use it, but I have not had success in learning it. I've never been able to learn foreign languages, or any advanced computer language.

I hold an FCC General Radiotelephone Operators licence.
I can pass the written Amateur General examination easily. I repair HF AM/SSB and VHF FM commercial and military radio gear as a hobby, and I build my own test equipment from time to time. I can more fully do my part for the Service, if the Morse code requirement is removed. And for the hobby's part, I would like to get on those AM roundtables.

I believe that there are many others like me, who, but for the
Morse Code requirement, would lend excellent practice to the
Service.

On these grounds, I ask the FCC to remove the Morse code
requirement for the General Class License.

Additionally, It might be a good idea to make the General exam
more difficult. It is too easy. The easy Tech license has given
rise to an influx of 'appliance operators' who know almost
nothing about radio or electronics. The General exam is harder,
but not hard enough to assure that new licencees actually know
enough about communications systems.

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Exhibit A:
"an excerpt from an unsolicited e-mail from W0YR"

From:
W0YR@aol.com
9/26/03 5:50 AM
Subject: Your Comments
To: eccm@swbell.net

Patrick,

Just read what you posted on the FCC's Electronic Comments Filing
System. Thanks for the chuckles!

<snip>
2. It is interesting to note that you, a Technician Class
licensee who can't even use the frequencies in consideration
here, chose to comment on the matter. You are apparently:

A. Too lazy, indolent, slow or dull to learn Morse Code at
the overwhelmingly fast speed of 5 WPM. If this were a court case,
you could not show that adoption of RM-10740 would adversely
affect you, because you're not even entitled to use the
frequencies of even a General Class licensee.
Some dork off the street has about as much standing to comment
on this as you do!

B. Unable to understand the difference between Comments and
Reply (to) Comments.
<snip>

Now, Patrick, I know that "B" above is a compound sentence.
It's many clauses are probably terribly confusing to you,
especially given the fact that you have not even demonstrated the
"smarts" to learn Morse Code at the lowest speed provided by the
FCC and that you have not bothered
<snip>

W0YR

P.S. How come your first name is misspelled on the cover sheet

of your FCC filing? Oh! No! Don't tell me you can't TYPE, either!!!

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END EXHIBIT A